GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:411
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002
JOINT GROUP OF INDIA AND NEPAL FOR FLOOD CONTROL .
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal , Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are facing recurring floods caused by rivers flowing from Bangaladesh and Nepal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the rivers that bring disaster;

(c) if so, the details thereof,

(d) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India recently and held discussions in this regard;

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether any joint group of India and Nepal has been constituted to control flood in the States; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.411 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 22.4.2002 REGARDING JOINT GROUP OF INDIA AND NEPAL FOR FLOOD CONTROL

(a) Yes Sir. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are facing recurring floodscaused by rivers flowing through Nepal. West Bengal suffers intermittently from floods during monsoon from the flow of a few rivers from Bangladesh.

(b) Yes Sir. The Government has identified the rivers causing flood disaster in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

(c) The main rivers causing floods in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the Ghaghra, the Rapti, the Sarda, the Gandak,the Burhi Gandak, the Bagmati, the Kamla, the Kosi, the Mahananda andthe Adhwara Group of rivers. A few rivers flowing from Bangladesh into West Bengal which cause intermittent floods are the Nagar, the Tangon, the Punarbhaba and the Atrai.

(d)&(e) Yes Sir. The Prime Minister of Nepal visitedIndia during 20-25 March, 2002 and held discussions in matters including flood control.

Following the above visit, the two Prime Ministers, inter-alia, emphasized the importance of the role of the Joint Task Force on Flood Control and Forecasting in working towardsjoint preventive measures. It was also agreed that there should be close consultations between the concerned authorities of the two Governments regarding flood control structures and that preparation of a Master Plan on flood forecasting should be jointly worked out.

(f) & (g) Yes Sir. The following Committees have been constituted.

1. A Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by the respective Water Resources Secretaries of both the countries to oversee the entire gamut of India − Nepal cooperation in Water Resources Sector.

2. Standing Committee on Inundation Problem has been constituted in 1986 to go into the problem of inundation due to construction of various works in the border rivers between India and Nepal, with a view to identify the problem areas and suggest possible solutions on a continuing basis.

3. India − Nepal Committee on Flood Forecasting set up in April2001 to review existing flood forecasting system and prepare a comprehensive flood forecasting master plan.

4. Sub Committee on Embankment Constructionto approve planning, design and construction of embankments on four flood prone rivers namely Lalbakeya, Bagmati, Kamla and Khando.